

1 We claim:

2
3 1. A linear measuring device comprising:

4
5 a tape housing having an outer surface, a tape outlet opening and
6 inner volume;

7
8 a generally semi-flexible measuring tape housed within said tape
9 housing in a generally spiral configuration with an outer end
10 extendable through said tape outlet opening;

11
12 an extendable generally flat planar rear tail having an outer end
13 and an inner end, said rear tail movably mounted on said tape
14 housing generally opposite said tape outlet opening, said rear
15 tail operative to project outwards from said tape housing;

16
17 a generally flat planar forward tongue having inner and outer ends,
18 said inner end of said forward tongue mounted on said outer
19 end of said measuring tape with said forward tongue extending
20 forwards therefrom;

21
22 at least two sets of measurements displayed on said measuring tape,
23 an outer measurement of said at least two sets of measurements
24 displaying the total extended distance of said measuring tape
25 from said outer end to said tape outlet opening, an inner
26 measurement of said at least two sets of measurements
27 displaying the total distance between said outer end of said
28 rear tail and said outer end of said forward tongue such that

1 outer and inner measurements are simultaneously displayed on
2 said measuring tape.
3

4 2. The dual option tape measure of claim 1 wherein said
5 inner measurement further comprises the length of said rear tail
6 plus the length of said forward tongue plus the length of said tape
7 housing between said tape outlet opening and the connection of said
8 rear tail to said tape housing plus the total extended distance of
9 said measuring tape from said outer end to said tape outlet opening
10 ($L_{\text{Rear Tail}} + L_{\text{Forward Tongue}} + L_{\text{Tape Housing}} + L_{\text{Tape}}$) whereby the total distance
11 between the outer end of said rear tail and said outer end of said
12 forward tongue is shown by said inner measurement free of addition
13 of the individual length measurements of each of the rear tail,
14 forward tongue, tape housing and measuring tape.
15

16 3. The dual option tape measure of claim 1 wherein said
17 forward tongue is hingedly mounted on said outer end of said
18 measuring tape.
19

20 4. The dual option tape measure of claim 3 wherein said
21 forward tongue is pivotable between a retracted position in general
22 parallel alignment with and contacting said measuring tape and an
23 extended position extending outwards generally parallel with said
24 measuring tape.
25

26 5. The dual option tape measure of claim 1 wherein said
27 inner end of said rear tail is hingedly mounted on said tape
28 housing generally adjacent the lower surface of said tape housing,

1 said rear tail pivotable between a retracted position generally
2 adjacent said tape housing and an extended position generally
3 parallel with said outer end of said measuring tape in the opposite
4 direction therefrom.

5
6 **6.** The dual option tape measure of claim **1** wherein said
7 inner end of said rear tail is retractably mounted within said tape
8 housing with said outer end of said rear tail extending partially
9 outwards from said tape housing when said rear tail is housed
10 within said tape housing such that said outer end of said rear tail
11 may be engaged to withdraw said rear tail from said tape housing
12 thereby moving said rear tail into an extended position generally
13 parallel with said outer end of said measuring tape in the opposite
14 direction therefrom.

15
16 **7.** The dual option tape measure of claim **1** wherein:

17
18 said forward tongue is hingedly mounted on said outer end of said
19 measuring tape;

20
21 said inner end of said rear tail is hingedly mounted on said tape
22 housing generally adjacent the lower surface of said tape
23 housing; and

24
25 said hinged connection of said forward tongue and said hinged
26 connection of said rear tail each including hinge stop means
27 to restrict rotation of said forward tongue and said rear tail
28 beyond an extended position for each wherein both said forward

1 tongue and said rear tail are generally parallel with said
2 outer end of said measuring tape for facilitating accurate
3 measuring of inner measurements of objects to be measured.
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1 8. A linear measuring device comprising:

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3 a tape housing having an outer surface, a tape outlet opening and
4 inner volume;

5
6 a generally semi-flexible measuring tape housed within said tape
7 housing in a generally spiral configuration with an outer end
8 extendable through said tape outlet opening;

9
10 an extendable generally flat planar rear tail having an outer end
11 and an inner end, said rear tail pivotably mounted on said
12 tape housing generally opposite said tape outlet opening, said
13 rear tail operative to project outwards from said tape
14 housing;

15
16 a generally flat planar forward tongue having inner and outer ends,
17 said inner end of said forward tongue pivotably mounted on
18 said outer end of said measuring tape, said forward tongue
19 pivotable between a retracted position contacting said
20 measuring tape and an extended position extending outwards
21 from said measuring tape;

22
23 at least two sets of measurements displayed on said measuring tape,
24 an outer measurement of said at least two sets of measurements
25 displaying the total extended distance of said measuring tape
26 from said outer end to said tape outlet opening, an inner
27 measurement of said at least two sets of measurements
28 displaying the total distance between said outer end of said

1 rear tail and said outer end of said forward tongue such that
2 outer and inner measurements are simultaneously displayed on
3 said measuring tape.
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5 9. The dual option tape measure of claim 8 wherein said
6 inner measurement further comprises the length of said rear tail
7 plus the length of said forward tongue plus the length of said tape
8 housing between said tape outlet opening and the connection of said
9 rear tail to said tape housing plus the total extended distance of
10 said measuring tape from said outer end to said tape outlet opening
11 ($L_{\text{Rear Tail}} + L_{\text{Forward Tongue}} + L_{\text{Tape Housing}} + L_{\text{Tape}}$) whereby the total distance
12 between the outer end of said rear tail and said outer end of said
13 forward tongue is shown by said inner measurement free of addition
14 of the individual length measurements of each of the rear tail,
15 forward tongue, tape housing and measuring tape.
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1 10. A linear measuring device comprising:

2
3 a tape housing having an outer surface, a tape outlet opening and
4 inner volume;

5
6 a generally semi-flexible measuring tape housed within said tape
7 housing in a generally spiral configuration with an outer end
8 extendable through said tape outlet opening;

9
10 a tape end hook mounted on and depending from said outer end of
11 said measuring tape;

12
13 an extendable generally flat planar rear tail having an outer end
14 and an inner end, said rear tail movably mounted on said tape
15 housing generally opposite said tape outlet opening, said rear
16 tail operative to project outwards from said tape housing;

17
18 a generally flat planar forward tongue having inner and outer ends,
19 said inner end of said forward tongue mounted on said outer
20 end of said measuring tape forward of said tape end hook with
21 said forward tongue extending forwards therefrom;

22
23 at least two sets of measurements displayed on said measuring tape,
24 an outer measurement of said at least two sets of measurements
25 displaying the total extended distance of said measuring tape
26 from said outer end to said tape outlet opening, an inner
27 measurement of said at least two sets of measurements
28 displaying the total distance between said outer end of said

1 rear tail and said outer end of said forward tongue such that
2 outer and inner measurements are simultaneously displayed on
3 said measuring tape.
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5 **11.** The dual option tape measure of claim **10** wherein said
6 inner measurement further comprises the length of said rear tail
7 plus the length of said forward tongue plus the length of said tape
8 housing between said tape outlet opening and the connection of said
9 rear tail to said tape housing plus the total extended distance of
10 said measuring tape from said outer end to said tape outlet opening
11 $(L_{\text{Rear Tail}} + L_{\text{Forward Tongue}} + L_{\text{Tape Housing}} + L_{\text{Tape}})$ whereby the total distance
12 between the outer end of said rear tail and said outer end of said
13 forward tongue is shown by said inner measurement free of addition
14 of the individual length measurements of each of the rear tail,
15 forward tongue, tape housing and measuring tape.
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